

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

Bicek et al.

Examiner:

Nguyen, V.X.

Serial No.:

09/974,653

Group Art Unit:

3731

Confirmation No.:

9912

Docket:

760-49 RCE

Filed:

October 10, 2001

Dated:

November 3, 2004

For:

STENT DESIGN WITH SHEATH ATTACHMENT

MEMBERS

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 3,

2004.

Signed:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of June 15, 2004 and the Advisory Action of October 4, 2004, and in connection with the concurrently-submitted Request for Continued Examination (RCE), please amend the above-identified application prior to further examination.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

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